



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Tennessee Farm Facts

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

August Crop Production Mushrooms Farm Labor Chicken & Eggs
Hog County Estimates Farm Production Expenditures

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Early Yield Forecast Shows Mixed Results

Widely scattered rainfall during the growing season has led to the potential for highly variable crop yields in the Volunteer State. In areas that have received timely rains, yield prospects are above average-to-excellent, but areas that haven't received beneficial rainfall; appear average at best. Overall, forecasted yields for the State's major row crops are up substantially from the drought-impacted yields of last year, but less than average for the five-year period prior to 2007. An August 1 survey of farmers conducted by the Tennessee Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, showed the following: **Corn**, 118 bushels per acre, up 12 bushels from a year earlier; **Cotton**, 765 pounds per acre, up 200 pounds from last year; **Soybeans**, 30 bushels per acre, 12 bushels above the previous year; **Burley Tobacco**, 2,000 pounds per acre, up 400 pounds from last year; and **Hay, except alfalfa**, 2.1 tons per acre, up 0.7 tons from 2007.

Tennessee's **cotton** production is forecast at 470,000 bales, down 22 percent from last year's production of 600,000 bales and, if realized, the lowest since 1986. Cotton yields are expected to average 765 pounds per acre, up 200 pounds from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 295,000 acres, down 215,000 acres from 2007. The decrease in acreage is mainly due to declines in the major producing counties, such as Haywood and Gibson, who have alternative planting choices. Also, cotton prices have been mostly stagnant, leading producers to switch to other crops, such as corn and soybeans. The crop has received the heat units needed for adequate growth, but could use another shower to boost development. Around August 1, the crop was rated in mostly good condition and was setting bolls at a normal pace.

Soybean production is forecast at 41.4 million bushels, up 137 percent from last year. Soybean yields are forecast at 30 bushels per acre, 12 bushels above 2007. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1,380 million acres, up 410,000 from a year ago. As of the first week of August, development was progressing at a normal pace. Full-season soybeans are in good condition, but the majority of the soybeans planted after wheat, need a good rain soon to make a decent crop. As of August 3, the crop was rated in mostly good-to-fair condition.

Tennessee's **corn** production is forecast at 75.5 million bushels, down 9 percent from a year ago. Farmers expect to harvest 640,000 acres for grain, 145,000 less than last year. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 118 bushels per acre, 12 bushels above 2007 but 8 bushels below the 5-year average. Producers reported highly variable potential yields on the August survey, ranging from less than 50 to more than 150 bushels per acre. This can mainly be attributed to a dry pattern that occurred during the critical pollination stage in July. In some cases, the condition of early planted fields appears vastly different from the later planted ones, even within the same county. The crop is currently drying down and the harvest of silage is underway. As of August 3, the crop was rated in mostly good-to-fair condition.

As of August 1, **burley** production is forecast at 26.0 million pounds, 25 percent above a year ago. Yields are forecast to average 2,000 pounds per acre, up 400 pounds from 2007. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 13,000 acres, unchanged from 2007. A good burley and an excellent dark tobacco crop are in the works for 2008. Timely rains on a late transplanted crop have growers very optimistic. In general, growers are expecting a crop similar to 2006. Producers are topping now and as of the week ending August 3, 44 percent of the crop had been topped, compared with the five-year average of 50 percent. Some farmers reported that the leaves are lapping over in the rows, something they usually don't do until harvest time. Tennessee's dark-fired tobacco yields are forecast at 3,200 pounds per acre, while dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,700 pounds per acre, both well above 2007.

Apple growers produced an estimated 9.0 million pounds of apples, up from last year's record low of 100,000 pounds. Tennessee recovered nicely from last year's catastrophic downturn caused by an Easter freeze and a prolonged drought.

Hay production, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at 3.78 million tons, 59 percent above 2007. Yields are expected to average 2.1 tons per acre, up 0.7 tons from last year. Acreage is estimated at 1.8 million acres, up 100,000 acres from a year earlier. The 2008 hay crop is at the point where it could turn into an average year or one similar to last year, depending on rainfall the next several months. Spring provided plenty of moisture to jumpstart pastures and hayfields and led to excellent production from the first cuttings. However, the weather turned hot and dry during the summer leaving many pastures and hay fields with moisture deficits. There have been some second cuttings, but production has been generally shorter than normal. The number of acres cut increased as producers sought to overcome low hay stocks coming out of the winter. As of the week ending August 3, the State's pastures were rated in mostly fair condition.

U.S.: Corn production is forecast at 12.3 billion bushels, down 6 percent from last year but 17 percent above 2006. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 155.0 bushels per acre, up 3.9 bushels from last year. If realized, this yield would be the second highest on record, behind 2004. Production would be the second highest on record, behind last year when producers harvested the most acres of corn for grain since 1933. Growers expect to harvest 79.3 million acres for grain, up 350,000 acres from June but 8 percent lower than last year.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.97 billion bushels, up 15 percent from last year but down 7 percent from the record high production of 2006. If realized, this will be the fourth largest production on record. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 40.5 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushel from 2007. Area for harvest in the U.S. is forecast at 73.3 million acres, up 2 percent from June and up 17 percent from 2007.

All **cotton** production is forecast at 13.8 million 80-pound bales, down 28 percent from last year's 19.2 million bales. Yield is expected to average 842 pounds per harvested acre, down 37 pounds from the record yield in 2007. Upland cotton production is forecast at 13.2 million 480-pound bales, 28 percent below 2007. Producers in the Southeast region are expecting increased yields from last year, while producers in Texas expect a lower yield than the record high received in 2007.

All **wheat** production, at 2.46 billion bushels, is virtually unchanged from the July forecast but up 19 percent from 2007. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 43.5 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month but 3.0 bushels above last year.

Crop Forecasts: Tennessee and United States, August 1, 2008, with Comparisons

Crop	Units	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2007	Indicated 2008	2007	Indicated 2008	2007	Indicated 2008
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
Tennessee							
Apples	lb.	---	---	125	11,250	100	9,000
Corn for grain	bu.	785	640	106	118	83,210	75,520
Cotton ¹	lb.	510	295	565	765	600	470
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	1,700	1,800	1.40	2.10	2,380	3,780
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	0 ²	1.90
Soybeans	bu.	970	1,380	18	30	17,460	41,400
Tobacco, All	lb.	19.98	21.40	1,934	2,443	38,636	52,280
Dark fire-cured	lb.	6.2	7.2	2,600	3,200	16,120	23,040
Burley	lb.	13.0	13.0	1,600	2,000	20,800	26,000
Dark air-cured	lb.	0.78	1.20	2,200	2,700	1,716	3,240
Winter Wheat	bu.	260	550	41.0	65.0	10,660	35,750
United States							
Apples	lb.	---	---	25,100	---	9,113,900	9,165,200
Corn for grain	bu.	86,542	79,290	151.1	155.0	13,073,893	12,287,875
Cotton ¹	lb.	10,489	7,849	879	842	19,207	13,767
Hay, All	ton	61,625	60,439	2.44	2.45	150,304	147,955
Peaches	ton	---	---	8.41	---	1,129	1,094
Soybeans	bu.	62,820	73,341	41.2	40.5	2,585,207	2,972,577
Tobacco, All	lb.	356.0	350.4	2,191	2,271	779,899	796,009
Dark fire-cured	lb.	14.6	16.9	2,855	3,337	41,688	56,390
Burley	lb.	106.3	96.5	1,951	2,071	207,387	199,735
Dark air-cured	lb.	4.98	7.20	2,706	2,950	13,476	21,240
Winter Wheat	bu.	35,952	40,252	42.2	46.6	1,515,989	1,874,857

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton. ²No significant commercial production due to freeze damage.

All Mushroom Sales Down 2 Percent, Value Up Slightly

U.S.: Sales of the 2007-08 mushroom crop are 809 million pounds, down 2 percent from the 2006-07 season and 4 percent below two years ago. Value of sales for the 2007-08 U.S. mushroom crop is \$964 million, virtually unchanged from the previous season but 8 percent above the 2005-06 season. The number of growers, at 286, is up 6 from last season. The average price is \$1.19 per pound, up 3 cents from 2006-07.

Volume of sales reported by growers of Agaricus mushrooms for fresh market is 675 million pounds, down 3 percent from last season. Volume of sales of Agaricus mushrooms for processing is 118 million pounds, virtually unchanged from last season. Value of sales for all Agaricus mushrooms totaled \$914 million, down slightly from the previous season but 8 percent above 2005-06.

Hired Workers Down 3 Percent, Wage Rates up 4 Percent From a Year Ago

U.S.: There were 1,173,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 6-12, 2008, down 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 828,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 345,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.34 per hour during the July 2008 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.66 per hour, up 42 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.98 per hour compared with \$9.73 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.74 per hour, was up 37 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.5 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 2 percent from a year ago. The largest decreases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in California and in the Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), and Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia) regions. In the Appalachian I and II regions, wet conditions compared with the previous year's drier reference week reduced the demand for field workers. Lower cattle inventories in both regions led to fewer livestock workers being needed.

All Layers Down 2 Percent

U.S.: All layers in the U.S. on August 1, 2008 totaled 335 million, down 2 percent from last year. The 335 million layers consisted of 277 million layers producing table or market-type eggs, 55.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.69 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on August 1, 2008, averaged 72.5 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from August 1, 2007.

Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Selected States and United States, During July 2007 and 2008

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers ¹		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ¹	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Thousands				Number	
Alabama	1,194	1,255	9,153	9,213	1,945	1,932
Arkansas	4,041	3,613	13,838	13,488	1,973	2,002
Georgia	9,387	9,086	19,121	18,493	2,061	2,066
North Carolina	4,359	4,723	12,137	12,253	2,060	2,065
All Other States ²	256,372	253,793	285,786	282,654	2,276	2,306
United States	275,353	272,470	340,035	336,101	2,235	2,262

¹Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size. ² Tennessee included in all other states total.

Hog and Pigs: Number on Farms, by District, Tennessee, December 1, 2007

District	All Hogs and Pigs	Breeding Hogs	District	All Hogs and Pigs	Breeding Hogs
20	91,000	6,200	50	16,000	6,200
30	13,500	2,800	Districts 10 & 60	7,000	800
40	12,500	2,000			
			State	140,000	18,000

Farm Production Expenses: Atlantic Region¹ Total, 2003-2007

Expenditure	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total Farm Production Expenses ^{2 3}	29,570	31,870	29,540	30,850	32,340
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	2,550	2,610	2,600	2,740	2,450
Feed	5,780	6,040	5,150	5,270	6,400
Farm Services ⁵	3,630	3,760	3,640	3,870	4,050
Rent ⁶	1,010	1,040	960	950	990
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	810	850	800	830	930
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	1,090	1,190	1,290	1,400	1,500
Interest	1,210	1,100	1,120	1,260	1,430
Labor	3,570	3,610	3,190	3,620	3,470
Fuels	920	1,170	1,310	1,460	1,580
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	1,750	2,150	1,920	2,010	2,140
Farm Improvements & Construction ^{9 10}	2,250	2,870	2,690	2,590	2,580
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	1,250	1,500	1,080	1,020	1,000
Other Farm Machinery	720	710	620	580	570
Seed and Plants ¹¹	1,320	1,230	1,170	1,240	1,230
Trucks & Autos	660	870	740	630	490
Taxes (Real Estate & Property) ¹²	950	1,000	1,210	1,360	1,480

¹ Atlantic Region includes the following states, (CT, DE, KY, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI, TN, VA, VT, WV). ² Total includes miscellaneous production expenses not allocated to any of the 16 expense categories published. Therefore, the sum of individual expenditure items will not add to totals. ³ Includes landlord and contractor share of farm production expenses. ⁴ Includes purchases and leasing of livestock and poultry. ⁵ Includes all crop custom work, veterinary services, custom feeding, transportation costs, marketing charges, insurance, leasing of machinery and equipment, miscellaneous business expenses, and utilities. ⁶ Includes public and private grazing fees. ⁷ Includes material and application costs. ⁸ Includes bedding and litter, marketing containers, power farm shop equipment, miscellaneous non-capital equipment and supplies, repairs and maintenance of livestock and poultry equipment, and capital equipment for livestock and poultry. ⁹ Includes all expenditures related to new construction or repairs of buildings, fences, operator dwelling (if dwelling is owned by operation), and any improvements to physical structures of land. ¹⁰ Changed in 2003 to include operator dwelling expenses (if dwelling is owned by operation). ¹¹ Excludes bedding plants, nursery stock, and seed purchased for resale. Includes seed treatment. ¹² Landlord taxes were imputed at a higher rate starting in 2005.

